



5 April 2006

Montana Wing Observer

The Nuts and Bolts of Drug Demand Reduction: Squadron Partners with Montana Air National Guard



HELENA—Staff Sergeant Drenda Carlson (left) of Montana Air National Guard is a familiar visitor to cadets of Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron. She is a welcome visitor, as well. Assigned to MTANG's Counter Drug Program, SSgt Carlson has developed an ongoing relationship with squadron cadets. While Civil Air Patrol Drug Demand Reduction guidelines require brief monthly DDR sessions, these cadets look forward to over an hour of SSgt Carlson's warm, engaging presentations monthly. And look forward they do—while her message always addresses the facts about the very real dangers of drugs, her vehicle makes the journey enjoyable and memorable. SSgt Carlson's presentations engage cadets in interactive discussion about such real-life matters as personal choices, leadership, and goal setting. But she

doesn't stop with talk. In a recent presentation, she presented cadet teams with kits of variously sized nuts and bolts. (right) The object? A lesson in goal setting. Her obvious respect for the cadets is reciprocated; she had their full attention throughout the session. SSgt Carlson says that MTANG Counter Drug Program resources are available upon request throughout the state, and that the program may be expanding, particularly in the Great Falls area.



Flathead Composite Squadron Cadet Presented with Mitchell Award



Cadet 2nd Lt Caleb Sackett was recently presented with the Billy Mitchell Award by Bernie Olson, Montana State Representative for House District 10. (left)

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Winter Survival FTX

By: Major Rob Hoffman
Reprinted from MT-060
Squadron Focus

Helena, MT – Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron hosted the second part of the Winter Survival School. It consisted of an overnight Winter Field Training Exercise on March 25th and 26th in East Helena. Three Squadrons—Butte Composite Squadron (MT-031), Big Sky Composite Squadron (MT-037), and Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron (MT-060)—participated in the activity, making it a huge success. C/MSgt Spencer Gilchrist and his family did an excellent job supporting the activity and making the

participating squadrons feel welcome. Thank you Gilchrist family!

Cadets and seniors received valuable training in shelter building, food & water preparation and rationing, stretcher carrying, line searches, ELT location with the tracker system, and cold weather survival—all in heavy, wet snow conditions.

Here is what Captain Mike Harrison, Butte Composite Squadron Commander, had to say about the activity: "What an excellent experience! The Helena Winter FTX was well planned and executed. I really enjoyed working with this team. Thank you all for a great weekend. Thanks especially to the Gilchrist Family for sharing their lovely home and pristine mountain property."

Participants in the Wing Survival FTX were:

Alpha Team:
Capt Mike Harrison, Team Leader (MT-031), C/2nd Lt Ashley Smith, Assistant Team Leader (MT-060), SM Paul Tho-

mas, Communications (MT-037), C/SSgt Matthew Harrison, Team Member (MT-031), C/A1C Bailey Thomas, Team Member (MT-037), C/A1C Zach Lauchenbruk, Team Member (MT-060), C/Amn Ben Suttley, Team Member (MT-031)

Bravo Team:

1st Lt. Duane Lund, Team Leader (MT-060), C/MSgt Spencer Gilchrist, Assistant Team Leader (MT-060), C/A1C Kyle Lake, Communications (MT-060). C/SSgt Sam Johnson, Team Member (MT-031), C/Amn Thomas Lund, Team Member (MT-060), C/Basic Kathryn Gregori, Team Member (MT-060), C/Basic Kelsey Johnson, Team Member (MT-060)

Cadre:

Maj Rob Hoffman, Course Director (MT-060), 1st Lt Mike Avery, Cadre/Casualty (MT-031), 1st Lt Jerry Lauchenbruk, Cadre/Medic (MT-060), 2d Lt Carolyn Bunegar, Cadre/Communications (MT-060), C/2d Lt Lexi Lund Cadre/Casualty (MT-060)

"What an excellent experience!"

Team Leader Direction:
Captain Mike Harrison directs ground team members. (below)



Squadron Display Items Needed for Wing Conference Displays

Maj Steve Heffel of Beartooth Composite Squadron requests that each squadron bring one or more display items to the Wing Conference April 28-30. Suitable items include plaques and trophies, patches, squadron t-shirts, AE displays, models, scrapbooks, or.... Please contact display coordinator Maj Heffel to let him know what you plan to bring or if you have any questions about an item's suitability. Contact him at : heffelsc67@peoplepc.com



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Grounded Planes No Deterrent to Quality Training

MISSOULA—Friday's sodden skies and unfavorable weather forecasts may have grounded the Missoula Sarex last month, but did nothing to dampen the spirits of those who attended. When the news came that the event had been downsized to a tabletop exercise, those who had already gathered immediately responded to the change in plans. The briefing room and mission base became classrooms, and mission base staff stepped forward as teachers.

Lt Col Pete Graf, Wing Standardization and Evaluation Officer, opened the Emergency Services briefing. The Saturday morning classroom session included an overview of CAP's Emergency Services program and continued with instruction on supporting technology. Capt Russ Westberg, Wing Communications Officer, reviewed

radio basics, and members learned techniques for ELT searches. Attendees were also schooled in observer skills, testing their skills by viewing a series of slides of actual crash sites.

Concluding their participation in the exercise, the five Missoula cadets in attendance practiced ELT search skills as they searched for a transmitter hidden on airport grounds.

The weekend continued with more communications training. Lt Col Graf and Capt Westberg teamed up to offer members hands-on training as the Missoula-based CAP aircraft Cessna 862 became a learning laboratory. Senior members, communicating with the base station, saw their morning's lessons come to life. Meanwhile, under Major Kaye Ebel's guidance, students con-

tinued their observer and scanner training as they studied aircrew practices and procedures. As the aircrew training closed Sunday, Maj Ebel presented them with mission-ready notebooks containing the resources and reference materials they had learned to use.

Besides Cadets and Seniors from Missoula Composite Squadron, members from Lewis & Clark Composite Squadron also participated in the weekend training. Wing Commander Col Jan Van Hoven and Wing PAO Major Doris Van Hoven assisted as well. The exercise took place in the Missoula Airport Terminal conference room, Northstar Aviation facilities, and on airport grounds.

Just one postscript: The weather was pleasant!



Capt Norm Jacobson of Missoula Composite Squadron practices ELT Skills.

Mission: ELT

Reported by
Cadet Airman Zack Hamner

BUTTE—On March 21, the Butte Composite Squadron went searching for an ELT (Emergency Location Transmitting Device).

An ELT is a mechanical device that is used to find a pilot if he or she wrecks in an area that may be harder to find than a lot of other places. They use

the ELT to find the pilot and the wreck. The battery lasts about 16 hours before it goes out. An ELT may be activated on purpose, or it may start sending a signal because of the hard landing.

As they marched their way to Stodden Park, Cadet Staff Sergeant Harrison led the search group around the park to search for the ELT. After a while, the fences were interfer-

ing with the transmitter so they had to search by eye. Finally after a half hour they located it. It was under the foot of the statue. Then the squadron marched back to the armory.

**MISSION
SUCCESSFUL
!!!**

**Missoula's Cadets
weren't the only
Montana Cadets
practicing their
ELT skills
last month.**

Cadets: Win Your Share of These Cadet Scholarships

All prizes to be presented at Montana Wing Conference April 28-30. Win scholarships to your choice of Wing or higher cadet activities.

Best Prepared Speech 1st Prize \$125, 2nd Prize \$75, 3rd Prize \$50
Encampment Logo \$25
Drill-Down \$50

Full details in the March 20 issue of Montana Wing Observer at www.mtwg.cap.gov/newsletter.html

Around the Wing

Awards and Promotions

Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron, Helena, reports these March promotions: Matthew Roddewig to C/SMSGT, Spencer Glichrist to C/MSGT, Casey Johnson to C/MSGT, Zach Lachenbruch to C/A1C, and Thomas Lund to C/Amn. **Flathead Composite Squadron** promoted Ian Cantrell to C/SrA, and Caleb Sackett, upon completing his Mitchell achievement, was promoted to C/2d Lt (See photo on page 1). **Skyhawks Senior Squadron** in Great Falls reports that 2d Lt Steve Balsom has accepted the squadron position of Aircraft Crew Chief. SM Jim Schlimgen has accepted the position of Finance Officer, and SM Ed Olson has accepted the squadron position of Program Officer and also that of Testing Officer. **Missoula Composite Squadron** had two promotions: Chris Brault was promoted to C/SSgt, and Jackson Meismer made C/SrA. At **Malmstrom AFB Cadet Squadron**, three cadets were promoted to C/Amn: Micheaun Biggle, Kirk Lundby, and Kara Lundby. Kaitlyn Ryan made C/A1C and Amanda Shastid was promoted to C/SrA. Cadet Commander Cody Reck completed his Mitchell achievement and became a C/2dLt. The squadron also had two senior promotions in March. Mark Reck and Rita Reck now are entitled to wear 1st Lt insignia. In **Butte Composite Squadron**, Dimitry Trybenchekov was promoted to C/SrA, Zack Hamner and Emeria Jones were promoted to C/Amn, and Cadet Sam Johnson was promoted to C/SSgt.

Welcome New Members

(First Quarter 2006)

Beartooth Composite Squadron: SM Robert Sutton, SM Albert Garver, SM Veril Slunaker, **Flathead Composite Squadron**: SM Joe Rhemann, SM Dean Sackett, and Cadet Michael Wall. **Missoula Composite Squadron**: SM Charles Bloom, Cadet Austin Hardy. **Lewis & Clark Composite Squadron**: Cadet Thomas Lund, SM Donald Eisenmenger, **Malmstrom AFB Cadet Squadron**: Cadets Kara and Kirk Lundby. **Butte Composite Squadron**: Cadets Brandon Maunder and Garrison Smith

Cadet Advisory Council Reports

Cadets from **Big Sky Composite Squadron**, Bozeman, cleaned the plane (28K). **Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron**, Helena, had a CPR and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) course. **Malmstrom AFB Cadet Squadron** reported good cadet attendance. The squadron recently hosted Airman Leadership School. Cadets at **Missoula Composite Squadron** enjoyed Orientation Flights and cadet-led team building classes. They also washed the Missoula-based plane, 862, and went on a hike for PT.

Montana Wing Calendar

New and Updated Items in **RED**

Find more information at www.mtwg.cap.gov

March 1-April 30, 2006

GI000 Training, Various Locations

April 15, 2006

Montana Wing Encampment STAFF Application Deadline

April 28-30, 2006

Montana Wing Conference, Billings, MT

Quarterly Wing Staff Meeting, During Conference, Billings, MT

May 1-June 30, 2006

GI000 Training, Various Locations

May 5-7, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD Training or Table Top, Laurel, MT

Preparation for Guided Sarex

May 13-14, 2006

Encampment Staff Academy, MAFB, Great Falls, MT

May 19, 2006

Encampment Application Deadline

May 22-25, 2006

Governor's Emergency Preparedness Summit, Billings, MT

May 20-26, 2006

Pacific Region Staff College, Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, NV

June 9-11, 2006

Montana Guided SAR, Location: Red Lodge

June 17-25, 2006

Montana Wing Cadet Encampment, Malmstrom AFB

July 1-Aug 31, 2006

GI000 Training, Various Locations

July 3-10, 2006

National Cadet Week

July 6, 2006

Malmstrom AFB Cadet Day

July 15, 2006

Quarterly Wing Staff Meeting, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT

July 15-22, 2006

Southwest Region Staff College, Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, NM

July 29-30, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD and Wing Picnic, Valier, MT

August 9-12

Summer National Boards, Reno, NV

August 19-20, 2006

Mountain Fury, Location TBA

September 23-24, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD, Laurel, MT

Encampment Staff Registration Deadlines Nearing

Cadets and seniors who would like to serve as Montana Wing 2006 Encampment Staff have little more than a week to submit their applications. For further details, visit:

www.mtwg.cap.gov/encampment.html